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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY.

MIR HUMAYUN JAH BAHDOOR, C. I. E., a grandson of Tipoo Sultan, has been re-appointed a member of the Madras Legislative Council. He was first appointed to that dignified position in 1870 by Lord Napier, and he has been appointed on no less than nine occasions. The Rajah of Venkatagiri has been appointed to the seat in the Madras Council vacated by H. H. the Maharajah of Vizianagram, K. C. I. E. The two other Hindoo gentlemen in the Council are the Hon'ble Rai Bahadoor S. Subra[illegible] the Hon'ble P. Chentsal Rao, C.I.E.

DR. Erasmus Wilson estimates that each square inch of the surface of the human head contains 744 hair follicles, and that as many of these give passage to two hair, the number of the latter on a square inch may be put down at about 1,066. The average superficial area of the head being about 120 square inches, we may reckon that each adult human being has about 133,920 hair on his head. Ladies may reflect with wonder that each of them whose tresses are more than a yard long, and whose head is at all near the average size, might, if the shining threads could be laid to end, span with them the widest part of the United Kingdom.

IT has at last been decided to open another station between Connaghur and Serampore on the East India Railway line.

THE ceremony of installing the Rajah of Jhind was performed this day with great *eclat*, by his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Lyall in his speech congratulated the young Rajah on the local traditions of his family and exhorted the Council of Regency to perform their duty to the Rajah and the State.

MR. GRIERSON'S paper on the Mediæval Literature of Hindustan, read at the Vienna Congress, has been published by Mr. Alfred Holder, Editor of the Court and University Press, Vienna. The essay has special reference to Tulsi Dass, whose place in the history of India is of the first importance. As Mr. Grierson says, Tulsi Das's Ramayan, apart from its literary merits, is a remarkable work from the mere fact of its universal acceptance by all classes of the Hindu community.

CAPTAINS MASON and Wahab with the Gomal survey party have returned to British territory after penetrating only a few miles into the Pass. Tribal jealousies and disputes seem to have caused their return.

A SERIOUS accident occurred this morning on the Eastern Bengal Railway. The down mail which left Goalundo at 20-30 on the evening of Sunday collided with a goods train within the distant signals of Mudanpur Station, thirty-three miles from Calcutta, about 4 a. m. 'It is reported that two second-class passengers were injured, one receiving a blow on the head, and the other a bruise on the side. No doubt several others must have been more or less shaken, but we are glad to say there is no reason to suppose that the injuries were serious. The driver of the mail train was slightly hurt. The engine and two vans were damaged, and the line was blocked for nearly six hours.'

VISCOUNT Cross, Secretary of State for India, announced this night that, unless Lord Dufferin telegraphs that he has objections, he will lay the report of the Public Service Commission before the House of Lords on an early day this week; and he took the opportunity afforded by this statement to thank the members of the Commission for the great trouble they had taken in the discharge of their onerous duties. Since the above was in type, we learn that the Public Service Commission Report will be published simultaneously in England and India, and may be expected to issue in a few days.

SIR Charles Bernard has finally decided not to return to India, and has accepted instead the office of Secretary to the India Office for Revenue, Statistics and Commerce in succession to Mr. W. C. Pedder, resigned.

TUESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY.

SIXTY-EIGHT millions of postcards passed through the Indian Post office last year, an increase of eight millions on the previous year, notwithstanding that there was a falling off of half a million in the reply-cards. This falling off has been the result of a reduction in the size of the reply-cards. Notwithstanding the competition of postcards, the number of letters increased by five millions. The success of the system of selling embossed envelopes for the price of the stamps is shown by a decrease of a million and a quarter in the number of unpaid letters.

ACCORDING to an American Professor the surface of the Moon has now been better surveyed than a large portion of the United States. Photography is the art to which we are chiefly indebted for this particular advance in knowledge. A daring and successful attempt to take a daguerreotype of the sun was made at Paris in 1845, and since then the achievements that have been made are almost incredible. Stellar photography originated with a daguerreotype of a star in the constellation Lyra taken at Haward College in 1850. Seven years later the depicting power of the camera was extended to stars of the sixth magnitude. In 1864 Rutherford of New York secured photographs of a number of clusters, including stars of the ninth magnitude, and reached the limit of what could be done with wet plates. With the introduction of dry plates it became possible to obtain impression of stars undistinguishable through the telescope.

THERE were great rejoicings at Baroda on the return of the Gaekwar from Europe The streets were thronged with people, both from the city and the surrounding districts. A salute of 21 guns was fired by order of the British Government and the whole of the Gaekwar's soldiery—cavalry, artillery and infantry—lined the route. In the procession were numerous elephants and solid gold and silver guns. Replying to the address of welcome, his Highness said he was glad to see that his rule was popular, and he promised to continue that policy which had met with his subjects' approval.

THE Negus has issued a proclamation calling on all his subjects to help him in order to extirpate the Italians. Fighting between the two armies is expected to take place very soon.

REPLYING to a question in the House of Commons, Sir John Gorst explained that the Loan Bill was introduced merely to enable Government to borrow and lend money to Railway Companies when such a course would be cheaper than giving a guarantee.

CAPTAIN Yate and Major Peacock have arrived in London, having concluded the demarcation of the Russo-Afghan Boundary.

ENGLAND in replying to Russia regarding the action proposed to be taken in connexion with Bulgaria states that she is unable to advise the Sultan to follow the course suggested before satisfactory proposals for the future rule of Bulgaria have been formulated.

IT is stated that Sir Harry Prendergast is to be confirmed as Resident at Maisur.

No less than three distinguished medical officers are about to proceed on furlough. Dr. Birch, Surgeon Superintendent of the General Hospital, will be succeeded by Dr. Crombie from Dacca; Dr. R. C. Sanders, of the Mayo Hospital, by Dr. Perry, Professor of Anatomy at Lahore; and Dr. Harvey, of the Eden Hospital, by Dr. Joubert.

THE Hon. Sir Dinshaw Maneckjee Petit has given a donation of Rs. 6,000 to the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, the interest to be expended in providing scholarships for female medical students in Calcutta. The High Priest of Baidyanath, in addition to the offer of scholarships, has come forward with a gold medal. The Hon. C. H. Moore and Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore have been nominated as Trustees to the Fund.

THE Raja of Bilaspur has offered Rs. 25,000 and the use of his miniature army for frontier defence.

IN one of the temples in Chittaldroog, Madras, there is reported to be an extraordinary tooth, which is an object of reverence. It is said to be six inches long, five inches broad, and two and a half inches thick. It is not certain whether it is that of a man or an animal, but the temple managers think it to be one of the *Hidimba* giants killed by *Bhima* in ancient times.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH FEBRUARY.

DURING the month of February 1888 forty-three thousand six hundred and eighty-nine persons visited the Indian museum. Of natives there were 31,661 males and 10,475 females, and of Europeans 1138 males and 415 females. The daily average number of visitors for the 21 days on which the museum was open to the General Public was 2080,

AN Association has been established at Bankipore under the name of the Behar Sanskrit Sanjivan, with the object of encouraging the study of Sanskrit in Behar. The Association proposes to raise the *tols* of Behar or a large proportion of them to the standard of the annual Sanskrit title examination for students throughout Bengal by instituting subordinate examinations and awarding prizes and scholarships, and the expenses have been estimated at Rs. 1,700 a year, of which Rs. 1,200 is expected to be raised by local subscriptions, while a Government grant to meet the balance is now asked for. The Lieutenant Governor approves the scheme, and, as recommended by the Director of Public Instruction, is pleased to sanction an annual grant of Rs. 500 to the Behar Sanskrit Sanjivan with effect from the 1st April next, on condition that the sum of Rs. 1,200 is regularly contributed from private sources.

A DEPUTATION of Irish landlords waited on Lord Salisbury, seeking to obtain some compensation for the heavy losses they have sustained by recent legislation. They also pointed out the unsatisfactory and imperfect working of the Land Commission. Lord Salisbury listened to all they had to say, expressed his condolence, and promised to consider the matter.

OWING to the cholera epidemic at Jammu, the Viceroy's route has been changed. It is now expected that His Excellency will come to Cashmere *via* Murri, arriving on April 1st. The Lal Mundi Palace is being prepared for the reception of His Excellency and suite.

THE Royal Family has received a telegram from San Remo intimating that all hope has now been abandoned, and that a fatal issue to the illness of the Crown Prince cannot be avoided. This sad intelligence has plunged the Royal house into deep affliction. 'The aged Emperor, now in his ninety-first year, has seen his son, it is to be feared, for the last time, and Berlin will be clothed in mourning to receive the last and final entrance of the Prince into the city which a long line of his race by their devotion to the Fatherland have elevated to be the capital city of the restored German Empire. It has been supposed for many years past, that the Crown, or more properly the Imperial Prince, under the influence of his consort the Princess Royal, eldest daughter of Queen Victoria, has been generally opposed to Prince Bismarck's policy, but that his eldest son Prince Frederick Wilhelm, who is now in his 30th year, is in cordial alliance with the great Chancellor. The dying Prince is one of the great soldiers of the age. In the war with Austria, in 1866, he bore the most decisive part, and again in the great Franco-Prussian war of 1870 it was the Crown Prince who sustained the brunt of the conflicts on the Rhine frontier, and again at Weissenburg and Sedan, when the French Emperor and his army capitulated to the German forces. The settled resignation and composure with which the Prince has borne his long and painful sufferings, and the almost cheerful fortitude with which he has sustained the successive operations he has undergone, have been the admiration of all who were near his person, while the fluctuations of hope and despair as to the final issue of his illness have wrought popular sympathy to an almost painful pitch of excitement. The statement that all hope is at an end, will be received with deep pain everywhere.'

THE Government of India, on the recommendation of Sir Charles Elliott, have finally decided to abolish the office of the Director-General of Railways from the end of the current official year, 31st March. Colonel Conway-Gordon will continue to hold his present personal appointment till the powers of the

Director of the North-Western System are increased, and, afterwards, will become Inspector-General of Railways, and Deputy Secretary to the Government of India. The *personel* of the Director-General's office will be distributed from the 31st instant; the superior establisment mostly revert to the Public Works, and of the subordinate, a portion is absorbed in the Public Works Secretariat. The remainder will be made to retire on pensions or gratuities.

THURSDAY, 1ST MARCH.

THE Maharajah of Durbhungha, K. C. S. I, has subscribed Rs. 1,000 per annum, during the last three years, to the funds of the Theosophical Society. Colonel Olcott proposes to invest this sum in Government promissory Notes, keeping it as a separate account to be called the "Durbhungha Fund".

WE understand that Sir Steuart Bayley has passed orders directing the abolition of the College classes of the Calcutta Madrassah, with effect from the beginning of the next academic year. The present students of these classes will be allowed to join the Presidency College on the payment of a monthly tuition fee of Rs. 2.

WE notice that public opinion in favor of the construction of a direct broad gauge Railway from Delhi to Kurrachee is steadily gaining ground, and that the projectors having asked the Government of India to grant them a reconnoissance of the country proposed to be traversed, the Government have consented, and Mr. Horace Bell, Chief Engineer of the Tirhoot State Line, has been selected to carry out the work.

LATEST Cashmere news concerning the disturbance in the neighbourhood of Gilgit indicates that it will pass away, like its predecessors, without perceptible effect beyond the locality. A force of 1,500 men has been despatched by the Durbar towards the two forts, Chuprote and Chilput, which have been seized by the raiders, and news will doubtless come in due time of their expulsion therefrom without too much bloodshed.

MR EDWARD SATOON and Mr. Dadabhai Naorcji have given evidence before the Currency Commission, on the effects of the depreciation of silver upon the trade between England and India.

THE House of Commons has authorised the raising of 10½ millions for the purchase of the Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway, and has also sanctioned the raising of ten millions for the construction and extension and equipment of railways in India through the agency of the various Companies.

SOME five months ago the old Rajah of Bajhara in Nepal died, leaving two widows, sisters, who in their grief at his death declared that they would "go suttee," but subsequently shrunk from the terrible sacrifice. The Prime Minister, Beer Shumshere, who was received at Government House by the Viceroy, the other day, insisted that they should perform Suttee, and it is stated that the unfortunate women were burned alive accordingly.

"MR. Macauliffe and Mr. Browne appear to have made it up," says the *Punjab Times*, "each has withdrawn the charges he made against the other, and Mr. Browne has persuaded the woman Rahiman to withdraw all claims for the maintenance of her children. We hope this feud between Messrs Browne and Macauliffe is at an end; it certainly lasted long enough and stirred up dirty water that has splashed both parties."

THE London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* believes that Lord Randolph Churchill's treatment at Berlin was not quite what he expected. He neither saw the Emperor nor Prince Bismarck, and it is understood that the intercourse between him and Count Herbert Bismarck was of the most formal kind. The fact that he did not see the Emperor is not a matter for surprise. Though the Emperor still takes a formal part in the conduct of affairs, it is well enough known that he neither decides nor directs them. The real snub administered to Lord Randolph was given by Prince Bismarck. The noble lord was anxious to see the Chancellor. He came from Russia with a scheme in his head for the arrangement of the differences between the Russian and German Governments, but Prince Bismarck has no patience with officious intermeddlers. The consequence was that he did not come to Berlin while Lord Randolph was there, nor did he invite the English politician to his country seat."

THE *Times of India* understands that the rule by which the Governor of Madras takes charge of the Governor-Generalship during any long interregnum between the departure of one Viceroy and the arrival of another has been altered, and that the privilege of acting for an absent Viceroy will in future be claimed by the senior Presidential Governor, whether of Madras or Bombay. If this ruling be correct, Lord Reay will act as Lord Dufferin's *locum tenens*, the Governorship of Bombay devolving temporarily on the Hon'ble Mr. Richey, the Senior Member of Council in Bombay.

FRIDAY, 2ND MARCH.

HIS Highness the Nizam's Government has under consideration a scheme for constructing six hundred miles of railway. The proposal is that instead of the line now nearly completed from Hyderabad to Warangul being prolonged to Chanda, 160 miles to the north, it shall be diverted to the north-east through the Central Provinces to Raipore, there to join the Nagpore-Bengal railway, that is, a distance of 280 miles against the 160 of the intended line from Warangul to Chanda. Another part of the scheme provides for the railway starting also from Warangul and passing *via* Nandair, Jalna and Arangabad, to Nandagaum, where it would join the great Indian Peninsula Railway after traversing an immense stretch of the Hyderabad state. The project owes its inception to the fertile brain of Abdul Huq, officially known as Sirdar Diler Jung, who placed the Nizam's State Railway scheme on the London market. The new railway extension is estimated to cost three millions sterling which the Nizam's Government is asked to guarantee.

PRINCE HENRI and the Duc d'Orleans left Government House on Wednesday last for the Nepaul Terai.

FROM 1st April next, there will be, instead of the present four issues of the Government *Telegraph Gazette*, six issues, namely, at 9 and 11 a. m., at 1, 3, and 5 p. m. and after sunset. Each issue will summarise the contents of the previous issues of the same day, as regards the movements of vessels, and will contain a list of the vessels at anchor in the reaches of the river which may be visible from each of the River Telegraph offices.

THE Executive Council of the Glasgow International Exhibition having expressed a wish to obtain from India a number of artisans, a committee has been appointed for the selection of suitable men. The committee consists of the following gentlemen :— A. M. Bose, Esq, Barrister-at-law, president, Mr. Allen Arthur, Mr. David C. Blair. Baboo Sib Nath Sastri, and Mr. T. N. Mukharji, F. R. S, Secretary.

WIRE scenery, says the *Engineer*, is the latest invention in theatrical furniture, and to all appearances seems likely to come into practical application very soon. A painter, Ernst Tepper, set himself to discover a non-combustible material for scenery, and in the end achieved such good results that his invention has met with the approval of those parties who are technically conversant with theatrical requirements of this description, and shortly a sample of the invention will be ready to be put into practical application. The only fabric available appeared to him to be the fine woven wire gauze, such as is common for blinds to the lower panes of glass of windows, and also used for kitchen and pantry safes. This fabric, which is fireproof, can be woven so fine that scenes can be painted on it and still be as flexible as linen. At first difficulty, however, presented itself, for when painted upon it was porous and could be seen through, and all the painting in the world would not improve this, as the paint passed through the meshes and only adhered fast to the wire in patches. Tepper set to work, and has now succeeded in making a paste or composition which adheres quite tenaciously to the wires, stops up the pores, and which neither cracks nor peels off, and forms a flexible grounding upon which the painting can be carried out.

THE Ameer does not appear to be making any great progress towards inducing the trans-frontier tribes to acknowledge his authority over them. According to an up-country paper, he has sent messengers to the leading Khans of Bajawar and Swat, making all sorts of overtures to them to induce them to come in to him, but the Khans still regard his attentions as suspicious, and naturally fear that the propinquity of His Highness may mean the extinction of their own independence. The private feuds which usually go on without intermission in this corner of the earth are said to be now completely hushed. The Khans of Upper and Lower Swat have all sunk their private differences, being determined not to permit the Ameer to have a footing in their country. They have resolved to strengthen their frontier, and have selected Omra Khan as their leader.

IN view of the general alarm and agitation which the Amir's movements are creating, the *Pioneer* says,—'It behoves the Government of India (not that of the Punjab, which has nothing to do with it, the question being an imperial and not a provincial one) to keep a more careful watch than ever on the Amir's doings in this quarter. The extinction of the independence of the Khans of Bajawar, Dir, and Swat, and the incorporation of their territory into Afghanistan proper would be a great misfortune to the people concerned, as well as highly inexpedient to our interests. The Government must be prepared to tell the Amir, gently but firmly, "Thus far and no further."

SATURDAY 3RD MARCH.

A TELEGRAM from London to the *Pioneer* says:— "The *St. James's Gazette* announces that differences with the Secretary of State over the Burmese Ruby Mines concession are among the causes of Lord Dufferin's retirement." The *Pioneer*, however, contradicts this statement. It says there is no truth in it, and adds:—"The Ruby Mines affair, after all, is a small matter—important enough in its way, but not the kind of question to induce a political fracture."

A MADRAS contemporary states that the case of Dhulip Singh is shortly to be agitated in Parliament, and, that there is some hope of the differences between the British Government and the Maharajah being adjusted. Dhulip's English friends are endeavouring to throw oil on the troubled waters, and to induce him to make the first advance towards reconciliation.

RUSSIA and France are about to conclude an alliance exactly similar to the Austro-German Treaty.

THE MEMBERS OF THE SONE CANALS COMMISSION are now in Calcutta considering their Report, which will be in the hands of the Bengal Government by the 15th instant at latest. The recommendations of the Commission are likely to be of a somewhat radical character, their special feature being the advocacy in important particulars of the Italian system of irrigation working as designed by Count Cavour, with due adaptations to the circumstances of South Behar.

ANOTHER raid across the Chittagong border is reported, the marauders being the Shendoos, who come from the Arakan hills to the south-west. The party crossed the border on the 15th of February, attacked a small village killing three men and a woman, and carried off nine men and fifteen women captives. The remainder of the villagers, about 30, escaped into the jungle. Mr. Shuttleworth, Assistant Superintendent of Police, repaired to the scene promptly and took up the pursuit, but failed to come up with the raiders, though some men who followed saw them and exchanged shots. 'It appears,' says the *Pioneer*, 'that these Shendoos have no connection with the tribesmen who murdered Lieutenant Stewart; but a succession of these occurences may have the effect of setting up a general agitation along the frontier, which at the present season would be difficult to deal with'

THE past year has added something to our knowledge of the planet Mars. That it has a cap of ice and snow at each pole, and that it has continents and oceans are facts that have long been known; that it has an atmosphere similar to that of the earth has for many years been suspected; and, as long ago as 1882, Schiaparelli, the Milanese astronomer, announced that he had detected traces of what appeared to him to be huge canals upon the surface of the planet. Since then M. Perrotin, of Nice, has given much attention to Mars, and he now corroborates Schiaparelli's announcement of the existence of what seem to be canals. He mapped and measured these great works, most of which lie in the equatorial regions of the planet; and supposing the diameter of Mars to be, as is generally believed, about 4,200 miles at the equator, some of these canals are, he says, nearly 2,000 miles long. M. Perrotin has, moreover, gone far towards establishing that the planet really has an atmosphere not very different from that to which we are accustomed; for he assures us that he has watched the collection, progress, and dissipation of clouds over the face of Mars, and has even distinguished the shadows which have been cast by them upon portions of the planet.

The total number of deaths registered during the week ending 25th February was 219, against 252 and 235 in the two preceding weeks, and lower than the corresponding week of last year by 25. There were 46 deaths from cholera, against 50 and 31 in the two preceding weeks; the number is higher than the average of the past quinquennium by 15. There were no deaths from small-pox during the week, the mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 55 and 14 respectively, against 72 and 27 in the preceding week. The general death rate of the week was 26·3 per mille per annum, against 27·1, the mean of the last five years.

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The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1888.

MR. HERBERT GLADSTONE ON INDIA.

WE are exceedingly glad to find that Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M. P. for Leeds, who, it will be remembered, visited India last year, still retains his interest in the affairs of this country. He is one of the few Englishmen who, in their brief cold weather Indian tour, made a proper use of his opportunities. His impressions of the visit published after his return to England clearly showed that during his short stay here he had done his best to master the many important problems connected with the administration of India. On the 28th of January last, Mr. Herbert Gladstone delivered a thoughtful and interesting lecture on "The English in India." He justly remarked at the outset that upon the electors of Great Britain and Ireland rested the ultimate responsibility for the welfare of the one-fifth part of the whole human race whom England had undertaken to govern. It is a grave misfortune to the people of India that the British public do not show any desire to discharge their responsibilities in this matter. John Bull is content to leave his great estate in the East in the hands of the agents to whom he has entrusted its management. But he should remember that the proceedings of agents, however able and honest they may be, stand in need of supervision. This consideration applies with special force to the India of to-day, because as Mr. Gladstone points out, the duties and difficulties of the Indian Government are becoming more extended and complex than even Irrish questions, which have for some time past absorbed the attention of the British public. He has no doubt that ere long Indian questions would be brought prominent before the British public whether they like it or not; that there was some danger that just desires may remain too long unsatisfied, real grievances unredressed and that bitter and justifiable resentment, joined with a growing consciousness of the vast power arising from combined numbers, may work serious mischief. The experience of Ireland should convince the British public that concessions tardily made may come too late to do much practical good.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone briefly reviewed the leading events of the Victorian era in India. He spoke nothing but the truth when he said that it began disastrously in this country. He observed:—"The policy and conduct of the Afghan war in 1838-42 were wholly bad and the bitter experience which was the sole valuable result of it, and which should have been a beacon-light to keep us for ever from the same course of folly and crime was shamefully lost away by Lord Lytton and the Tory party in 1878." The accuracy of this observation is clearly shown by few right-minded persons who are thoroughly acquainted with the facts of the case. Our two Afghan wars, as we have often remarked in these columns, have not only cost the tax-payer no less than sixty crores of rupees, but what is much worse, they have made an honest alliance with the Afghans impossible. The people of Afghanistan were forgetting the deplorable events of 1838-42 when Lord Lytton made them refresh their memory by wantonly undertaking the second Afghan War. He sought to reduce the Amir to the position of a protected Indian prince with what disastrous results we have seen. Mr. Gladstone next reviewed the circumstances connected with the Mutiny which he traced to the following causes:—(1) Exasperation arising from annexation: (2) Religion: (3) The neglect of grievances apparent by trifling, but of first importance to those of a wholly different creed and nationality: (4) The wide-spread wish to free India from a foreign and alien rule. The fourth cause mentioned by Mr. Gladstone, we feel bound to say, had no existence. It is well-known that during the Mutiny the people of India remained loyal to the British Crown. They showed no desire for the overthrow of English rule. They knew very well that they would gain nothing by a change of master. A few discontented and turbulent spirits who had real or imaginary grievances no doubt joined the ranks of the mutineers; but the people, speaking generally, were friendly and loyal. Mr. Herbert Gladstone, however, is driven by the very force of facts to admit that in 1857 the war was mainly a soldiers' war, and that the enemies of the British Government were mutinious Sepoys, disaffected men in newly-annexed provinces, backed by the disorderly and predatory classes who saw visions of rich plunder. Referring to the recent Burmese war, Mr. Glandstone recognised the difficulties of keeping the peace with a ruler like Theebaw; but at the same time he remarked with perfect justice that the justification for annexing Upper Burma has yet to be laid before the public.

The most interesting portion of Mr. Herbert Gladstone's lecture under notice was that in which he discussed the present position and prospects of the British Government of India. He said:—"Our Indian Empire was made up of immense districts conquered and annexed in succession. Our rule till recently had been government by force, tempered more or less, with justice and wisdom. Our methods had trained large numbers of Natives to our ideas of civil government. Education was rapidly spreading. We had, therefore, called into political existence men naturally endowed with wonderfully quick aptitudes, and had indoctrinated them with Western ideas. We had admitted them to the service of the Crown, and the vast majority of subordinate posts in the service of the Government were filled by Natives. All this was good. But each privilege given or right acknowledged encouraged the aspirations of the educated Native classes to have more important responsibilities placed upon them, or at least to be allowed to hold an acknowledged representative position for the purpose of suggestion and criticism in the administration of affairs. This great subject was now under examination by a Commission, the very fact of which showed the importance attached to the whole subject by the Indian Government. The direct effect of this great upward movement on the part of the Natives was to make the administration of affairs more complex and delicate." Our rulers deliberately adopted more than half a century ago the policy of giving the people of India the incalculable benefits of Western education. They must now be prepared to carry that wise policy to its logical conclusion. Western education has created new aspirations in the Native mind, which ought to be satisfied. The ambition of English-educated Indians to take a fair share in the administration of their own country is perfectly reasonable and honorable, and common fairness demands that it should be gratified. All India is now anxiously waiting for the result of the deliberations of the Public Service Commission, which were brought to a close a couple of months ago. We fully agree with Mr. Herbert Gladstone that the British Government in India must not be weakened, but that its stability and strength should be rigidly maintained. But the recognition of the claims of the children of the soil to a fair share in the management of their own affairs, is certainly not incompatible with the maintenance of a strong and stable Government. On the contrary such recognition would lay deep and wide the foundations of the British Empire in India and bind the subject races in golden chains of affection and attachment. We are strongly against utopian schemes propounded by impracticable enthusiasts. But the time has arrived when our rulers should do full justice to the needs, wishes and sentiments of the people of India, by effecting the necessary reforms in the existing system of administration.

INCIDENCE OF THE SALT TAX.

THERE are many sentimental philanthropists both in England and India who talk wildly about the hardship of the Salt-tax. These well-meaning gentlemen have somehow or other persuaded themselves that the tax presses most severely upon the poorer classes of the people, who cannot afford to eat as much salt as is absolutely necessary for the preservation of their health. We entertain the highest respect for the philanthropists who view the Salt-tax in this light. But we would earnestly implore these gentlemen to master the real facts of the case in an unbiassed spirit. We would commend to their careful and attentive consideration an admirable letter on the incidence of the salt-tax, from the pen of Dr. William Walker, which appeared in the *Pioneer* of the 24th ultimo. Dr. Walker's claims to be accepted as an authority on this subject will be admitted by all persons who are acquainted with his antecedents. He was for many years Inspector-General of Jails in the North-Western Provinces, and afterwards became the head of the Medical Department in those Provinces. As Inspector-General of Jails, Dr. Walker proved himself to be the best administrator we have had in India since the retirement of Dr. Mouat, and to the reforms introduced by him we are indebted for the present satisfactory condition of the prisons in the United Provinces, which contrasts so favourably with the deplorable state of the Bengal Jails. Dr. Walker is a sincere well-wisher of the people of India. He has no fuss or ostentation about him, but he does his good work quietly.

Dr. Walker's letter under notice contains a a clear statement of the position of the Indian peasant in relation to the salt-tax, and he speaks from personal observation and knowledge of the effects which may be anticipated to follow from the enhancement of the duty recently carried out. Nearly a quarter of a century ago Dr. Walker was led in the course of his duty as Inspector-General of Prisons in the North-Western Provinces, to consider and determine the quantity of salt required to be issued in the prison dietary. He set about his task in a very practical manner. He had hundreds of Natives waylaid on their return from purchasing their daily supplies from the retail baniyas, and weighed under his own eye the amount of salt included in the ration. He found that the pinch of salt considered by each man to suffice to season his daily meal of flour and pulse weighed from 100 to 140 grains. Dr. Walker writes:—"In most cases where the man was a regular customer of the baniya the pinch of salt was given as a measure of discount on the other articles of diet and did not appear as a direct item of charge. This is not to be wondered at seeing that salt can be purchased by the baniya wholesale at two-rupees seven annas per maund, and that the value of 100 grains at that rate is a sum that might well be overlooked even by the Shylock eye of an Indian baniya, being only ·009 part of a pie. Continuing these practical observations on the habits of the common people with facts which are the common property of all students of physics—the universal presence of salt in the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink, and its recognised place as a mere condiment and relish to food—I recommended that the daily issue of salt in the convict dietary should be limited to one hundred grains per man." This recommendation was accepted by Government, and for the past 24 years one hundred grains of salt has been the fixed daily allowance of every convict confined in the prisons of the United Provinces. The Jail returns from 1864 to 1886 show that no less than a million and-a-half convicts have passed through the jails during that period, and the average daily number in confinement has been about 21,000. This large number have for nearly a quarter of a century been strictly limited to a daily allowance of 100 grains of salt, and the vital statistics show that the annual mortality among those prisoners arising from all causes, including epidemics of fever and cholera, has been only 32·4 per thousand. Excluding the statistics of two remarkably unhealthy years, the death rate would be reduced to 26·6 per mille. This evidence conclusively establishes that a daily allowance of one hundred grains of salt per head is sufficient to maintain a labourer in health. Dr. Walker says: "No medical officer in charge of prisoners has ever attributed any evil effects from the strictly limited allowance of salt, and only on one occasion during 17 years was a request made to me by a medical officer to increase the allowance temporarily on the special and rather speculative ground that he considered salt as a prophylactic against cholera. This officer had evidently read of the treatment of cholera humorously described by Sir P. Watson

as *salting* patients without *curing* them. As an additional evidence of the sufficiency of the allowance of salt, and the absence of all craving for an increase, I may add that while native convicts will risk any amount of punishment to procure a pipeful of tobacco, and thousands of them are, as a matter of fact, punished annually for being in possession of this luxury, I never, during all my service in the Jail Department, heard of an attempt to introduce salt surreptitiously into a jail. This would certainly not have been the case if the allowance in the diet scale did not fully meet the wants of the men' and the fact is a strong indirect testimony to its efficiency." This is simply unanswerable.

Now, the question naturally arises, what is the cost of one hundred grains of salt absolutely and in relation to the total cost of the diet of an able-bodied Indian. As Dr. Walker is now living in the Agra cantonment, he made enquiries in the Bazar there and found that salt could be procured in any quantity at an average rate of 13 seers 14 chittacks per rupee, or 444 ounces for sixteen annas. This being the case, for the expenditure of one pie a man could purchase enough salt to last him 101 days, if he used 100 grains daily or for 50 days if he doubled the allowance. Dr. Walker observes :—" Let us now ask what relation this expenditure on account of a daily allowance of 200 grains of salt bears to the total cost of the diet of the ordinary native. On a very moderate assumption a native will spend Rs. 2 per month on his diet, or roughly Rs. 3 4 for 50 days : out of this total expenditure, if he purchases salt at all, he will be required to disburse one pie in procuring it, or in the proportion of 1 to 624. And supposing that he has to provide an allowance of one hundred grains daily for a wife and each of three children as well as for himself, the expenditure of one pie would still afford the whole family sufficient salt for 20 days' consumption. Can anything be more absurd and factious than to raise objections on economical grounds against taxation which lays such a feather-weight burden on the poorest of the land ?" It is for the opponents of the salt tax to show by incontestible facts and figures that the conclusion at which Dr. Walker has arrived is wrong. We readily admit that the rice-eating Bengale requires a little more salt to season his food with than the flour-eating up-countryman ; and that the retail price of salt in the interior is somewhat higher than the rates prevailing in the Agra cantonment Bazar upon which Dr. Walker has founded his calculations. But making due allowance for these two considerations, we must say that there is no justification for the wild talk which one hears so much of about the hardships of the salt tax. This tax is the only means we possess for reaching the masses of the people, who cannot be made to contribute to the cost of Government in any other way. The lowering of the salt duties in 1882, as we have maintained from the beginning, involved a wanton sacrifice of revenue, without giving the people any appreciable relief.

VAKILS AS ADVOCATES.

So strong a case has been made out by the British Indian Association in their recent letter to the High Court on the subject, that the staunchest opponents of the reform feel great difficulty in meeting it. We have reason to believe that the views of the Association have met with support and sympathy in influential quarters, and that there is no mean a likelihood of the representation of the Association bearing fruit. To the credit of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court it should be observed that they have never positively set their face against the concession, and so far back as 1868 Sir Barnes Peacock expressed an willingness to amend the rules so as to admit Vakils of a certain standing as Advocates. The proposal was not carried into effect somehow or other, but again in 1872 we find the question once more coming to the fore, when a step further was made towards its solution. The Vakils of the Court in that year once more urged upon the Chief Justice, Sir Richard Couch, that the rules of the Court on the subject clearly militated against the provisions of the Letters Patent of 1862 and 1865 and that they were subversive of a considerable portion of their rights and privileges under the Letters, inasmuch as they shut them out from practising in the Original Side of the Court. The appeal could be ill-resisted on any rational grounds, and His Lordship in consultation with the Advocate General decided to give the Vakils a fair hearing. A full bench of nine learned Judges—the full complement of the whole body of Judges then forming the Court—assembled on the 16th of May, 1872, and a formal hearing was ganted to the representation of the Vakils. For one of those strange and inexplicable reasons always cropping up in connection with complicated legal affairs the learned Judges never gave their decision and the question is legally speaking yet as open as ever. It is to be hoped that the representation of the British Indian Association will be instrumental in expediting the matter and that the Vakils' Association and the Attornies' Association (members of which body are eligible to be admitted as Vakils also) will take it up and give it all possible support and countenance. It is quite possible for professional jealousy of a certain class to stand in the way ; but if truth and justice are not to be wholly and recklessly ignored, we may fairly count upon the aid of the Barristers also in strengthening the hands of the Court in bringing about the reform.

It has been suggested in some quarters that the following may be some of the conditions on which the concession may be granted.

(*a*) That the individual cases should be entirely in the discretion of the Hon'ble Judges.

(*b*) That there should be an examination to test the requisite qualification.

(*c*) That Doctors in law should be eligible for the privilege.

In order to facilitate comparision of the merits of the systems as obtaining in Madras and Bombay where the concession has long been granted let us also bear in mind the rules of the Madras and Bombay High Courts. The Bombay rules provide (Bombay Government Gazette, Part I, 1884 ; Chapter III. para 25) that 'a Bachelor of Laws of the University of Bombay, may be admitted to be an Advocate of the High Court, on presenting a petition to the Chief Justice and Judges, and annexing thereto a certificate of his attendance upon the sittings of the Court for two years subsequent to his taking his degree as Bachelor of Laws, and immediately preceding the application(one year's attendance being on each side of the Court) in accordance with such rules as the Judges may, from time to time, in that behalf prescribe, and also a certificate of good charac ter and conduct signed by an Advocate of the Court, and upon providing a certificate of having passed an examination in law, to be held by persons appointed by the Court.'

The Madras rules, on the other hand, lay down that 'any person possessing the degree of Master of Laws of the University of Madras and a certificate of having subsequently to the attaining of such degree, studied for eighteen months with an Advocate of the High Court at Madras, while regularly practising in the said Court, as also of good character and conduct, such certificate to be signed by the Advocate with whom the applicant shall have studied'—may be admitted to be an Advocate of the Court.

It will thus be observed that in Bombay and Madras the matter is not left entirely in the discretion of the judges. Nor is it right that it should be. There is nothing in the constitution of Her Majesty's learned judges to place them above human passions and human impulses, and the absence of hard and fast rules would, as a matter of course, be synonymous with rank favouritism and abuse of power. No one would be more willing to admit the truth of those observations than the learned judges themselves who would disclaim any such responsibility. Creatures and agents of Law as they are, they would have some definitive law laid down for their guidance which it would be their duty to administer justly and impartially. Strained relations between the Bench and the Bar are not, it is true, matters of every day occurrence. But they do occur and it is not right to place the refractory Vakil, of how great merit and ability so ever, under the tender mercies of the judicial luminary whose *amour propre* he may have unceremoniously wounded in the discharge of his duties. Cases of angry throwing away of the brief and refusal to proceed with *swal jwab* are not likely to impress a judge extra-favourably ; but at the same time such brushes and passage-at-arms may not alone suffice for the denial of the privileges which the offending pleader might otherwise be fully entitled to. To place so valued a patronage wholly and entirely with the judges would be practically to sap the foundation of that manly independence of the lawyers which is so mighty and effective a bulwark against miscarriage of justice under all civilized constitutions. We would much rather have that our Vakils should never have the privilege of being admitted as Advocates, highly prized as it is than that they should sacrifice their independence and go cringingly in quest of crumbs of official patronage.

There are equally grave objections to the system of examination in the case at least of gentlemen grown grey in the practice. To the younger members of the Bar the objection may not be of much import. But if the suggestion of the Association be accepted, namely, that pleaders who are not of certain standing, say of seven years, should not be eligible for the privilege, the youngst members who can face the ordeal of an examination with the best chances of success, will be exactly the individuals who will have no concern with the revised rules. Seven years' arduous struggle for existence, would be enough to blunt the most marked capability for passing muster before an examiner, even in gentlemen in whom parrot-qualifications remarkably preponderated in their early academic life. Any one acquainted with the results of the absurd Septennial Examination of the grey-headed practitioners of medicine who have the misfortune to be in Government employ, will be able to bear us out in the truth of our remarks. Hoary-headed leaders of the Bar whose legal learning and acumen excite the just praise and admiration of the Bench would run shy at all mention of the desk and the stool and would rest supremely contented with the existing order of things. The panacea of Competitive Examinations comes to lose all its charms after the meridian of life is crossed, and it would be a ridiculous blunder to insist upon it in cases like these.

As for the remaining recommendation, namely, that Doctors in Law should be eligible for the privilege, the Association is quite right in what it says. The Association observes that if the privilege be limited to graduates who have attained the degree of Doctor in Law, or passed with honors at the B. L. examination, there would be ample guarantee about their legal qualifications and for the present the Committee do not desire to extend the privilege to the lower grades of the law graduates.' The Association makes a little mistake, we are afraid, when it talks of " passing with honors in the B. L. Examination," for there is not to our knowledge recognised in the Calcutta University a distinct degree of that designation. The Honors examination in Law, unlike that in Arts is quite a separate institution, and is a condition precedent of the Doctor's degree for which there is no separate examination. If, however, the High Court saw its way to granting the concession, there would be little difficulty in instituting an Honors Division of the B. L. Examination which would answer all practical purposes of qualification. But this would be satisfactory with regard to the younger members alone of the Bar, who may have already passed such an examination, or who may yet have been left the stamina for passing any. The provision about Doctors in Law would have the distinct advantage of raising the status of the profession by affording an impulse and motive to our graduates for reading for the higher degree, which is now comparatively neglected, since no practical advantages to speak of are to be derived from it. But as regards the vakils in whose case all examination would be out of the question, the case is somewhat different. As the Association rightly observe " their claims rest on their thorough knowledge of their business and their long experience." To make the Doctor's qualification a *sine qua non* in the case would be a great hardship which would tend to thwart the very

objects which the reform is expected to brings, about. In their case the recommendation of the Association must be given full effect to. And the recommendation of the Association is:—'the Court may rule that only such pleaders of a certain standing, who shall signify to the Vakils' Association their willingness to be enrolled as Advocates, and whose name the Association may deem fit to submit to the Court, shall be admitted as Advocates. The question of the number of years' practice which should make a Vakil eligible for promotion to the higher grade of Advocates might well be cosidered with reference to that provision in Her Majesty's Letters Patent which makes a Vakil of ten years' standing eligible to a Judgeship of the Court. Keeping that provision in view the Committee do not think that a minimum limit of 7 years would be at all unreasonable.' A very weak objection to the introduction of the reform is 'that the admission of Vakils as Advocates would, by increasing the present number of Advocates, have the effect of considerably weakening the European Bar. Very few English Barristers would care to come out to the country, if the Bar be overcrowded and their emoluments consequently diminished. It is not the interest of the native community, it is urged, that the number of English Advocates practising in the country should be reduced. English Judges and Magistrates, in the Mufassil specially, it is believed, can be *managed* by English Advocates alone and so in order to secure a better administration of justice, no steps should be taken which would result in discouraging, and ultimately preventing, English Barristers from joining the Indian Bar.' As we pointed out lately this theory about *management* is very fallacious. Our native Barristers who have considerable criminal practice in the mafassil *manage* the unmanageable mafassil Huzurs tolerably well. And the contention about weakening the European portion of the Bar strikes us to be equally weak and fallacious. Look to the Appellate side of the High Court where the Vakils have equal, nay greater privileges than the Barristers inasmuch as they are entitled to file appeals and do the attorney's portion of the work which the Barrister cannot. Can it be said that the preponderence of the Vakil element in the Appellate side has any way deteriorated the practice of the really deserving English members of the Bar? Not a bit of it. The theory about water finding its own level holds equally good in mechanics as in most concerns of human life. It is quite usual for the honored leaders of the Bar to be "retained" by wire scarcely before they have passed Suez or Aden on their return journey to India. *They* have never to complain of Vakil competition for they are men of sterling merit. It is mediocrity alone fattening on the preserve of favouritism that have to fear by the change. But their withdrawal will be no loss to the profession. It is well-known, moreover, that these honored leaders of the Bar freely and openly seek and gladly accept the aid of Vakils and non-professional Hindoo lawyers in questions arising out of heavy and complicated litigations in the Original side of the High Court. We have known very few really heavy litigations in which complicated questions of law have been involved and in which a Vakil of "strong and clear equity head" has not been welcomed in "consulation" by the Counsel in the cause. But as matters now obtain they end in the bare "consultation" and the Vakil naturally feels chagrined and mortified that his valuable legal learning should be so thoroughly utilised, by a Barrister and bear no practical fruit to himself. There is absolutely no reason why his acquirements should not be availed of beyond the stage of "consultation" alone.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBTS BILL.

IT was truly observed by Mr. Ilbert when he moved for leave to introduce the Bill that "there is no branch of the law which more intimately affects the welfare of the poorer classes throughout India than the law of debtor and creditor." In a country where the vast majority of the population are engaged in agricultural pursuits, where the indebtedness of the ryots is a matter of notoriety and where the revenue and rent laws make the necessity of borrowing money both by landholders and ryots imperative in certain seasons every year, it is a matter of the greatest importance that every facility should be given by the legislature to persons in need of money to get loans from capitalists. The cultivators in a large majority of cases cannot do without borrowing money in order to buy seed-grain and pay for agricultural labor; they must also borrow money to pay their quarterly instalments of rent unless they choose to sell their crops at a considerable sacrifice to greedy grain-dealers before they have been reaped; and the landholders themselves must borrow money to meet the periodical demands for land-revenue under the sun-set law. Any measure which will embarrass the relations between debtor and creditor will, therefore, inevitably result in checking the circulation of capital, raising rates of interest which are already ruinously high in the moffussil, seriously interfering with the cultivation of land, and materially lowering the condition of the cultivators of the soil. We repeat, therefore, that the law of debtor and creditor is the most important measure which affects the welfare of the poorer classes, and that no material alterations should be made in that law without giving the public ample opportunities for expressing their views on the subject.

We will not undertake at present to examine and criticise the provisions of the revised Bill which has been recently submitted to the Viceroy's Council by the Select Committee appointed to examine its provisions and report upon them. The Law Member admits that "the Bill has been reported in a form substantially differing from that in which it was introduced," and the Select Committee consider the alterations made in the original Bill to be so very material that they have recommended a republication of it. The Bill as originally introduced was intended for the North-Western Provinces only, and the criticisms that were invited upon it were necessarily confined to its adaptability to those Provinces. It has now been altered to make it applicable throughout British India, and, so far as we have been able to gather it is in many respects altogether a new Bill. It is essential under such circumstances that the measure should not be hurried through the Council and that its provisions should be subjected to as wide a critisism as the original Bill. The Report of the select Committee and the revised Bill were submitted to the Council on the 24th of February last. By the rules of business of the Council an order for republication means that it should be published in 23 different *Gazettes* in thirteen different languages, and as sometime will be taken in translating the Bill and publishing it we think that the public will have no knowledge of its provisions in less than two or three months. When the original Bill was published there was a difference of about four months between its publication in English and its publication in some of the vernacular languages. The difference of time may no doubt be reduced by expediting the translations of the Bill and its transmission to different provinces and administrations; but whatever measures might be taken to facilitate matters in this direction the public will have practically no opportunity of considering the Bill if it were taken up for passing it at the present Calcutta session of the Council. Considering that the measure is one not immediately required for the purpose of remedying an urgent grievance and that its transformation from a local measure to one affecting the whole of British India was an after-thougnt, to use a legal slang, on the part of the select Committee, we earnestly hope that the Hon'ble the Law Member will not think of taking any precipitate action with regard to this momentous measure.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

HIS Excellency the Viceroy and suite left for Darjiling on Friday last, and, according to present arrangements, will return, after a week's sojourn, on Friday, the 9th instant, at 4-30 P. M.

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HIS Honor the Lieutenant-Governor left the Presidency last Friday on a fort-night's tour of inspection in the Chota-Nagpore. He will come back to Calcutta on the 16th instant by which time it is hoped that the final report of the Select Committee on the new Municipal Bill will be ready for presentation to the Council.

THE *Englishman* says that a preliminary meeting will be held on Wednesday to make arrangements for the demostration in honor of the Viceroy. "Among the public bodies, which will be represented, are the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Trades Association, the Defence Association, the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association, the British Indian Association, and the two Mahomedan Societies. It is probable that the demonstration will take the form of a public dinner in Town Hall, at which either a joint address from all sections of the community, or a number of separate addresses, will be presented to his Excellency. We may state positively that the Viceroy does not intend to return to Calcutta on leaving Simla at the end of the year." The *Englishman's* information that the British Indian Association will be represented in the 'preliminary meeting' is incorrect. The Managing Commitee of the Association have not yet decided as to whether they should take any part in the proposed demonstration; nor is it likely that any decision will be arrived at before Wednesday. The Association, cannot, therefore, be represented at the meeting which is to be held on Wednesday.

THE proposed 'Home,' called St. Mary's House of Charity, at No. 5 Spoterkin's Lane, was formally opened by Lady Bayley, on Thursday afternoon. The object of the institution is to provide a temporary house for women in distressed circumstances.

THE annual meeting of the members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce was held, on Wednesday last, under the presidency of the Hon'ble Mr. R. Steel. The President, in the course of his opening speech, said:—"The agriculturist has had fair crops and high prices. Wages have a constantly advancing tendency, and the great bulk of the population is more prosperous than at any previous period of Indian history. Our important jute and cotton manufacturing industries are making handsome profits, to the advantage of those enterprising investors to whom the country owes so much. Our pressing companies also have been able by mutual forbearance and careful agreement to secure for themselves the prospect of remunerative trade." The following gentlemen have been elected as office-bearers for the ensuing year:—President—Sir Alex. Wilson; Vice-President—Mr. W. Bleeck; Members—Messrs. A. P. Ralli, W. H. Mackewan, E. D. Wylie, D. Yule, and R. R. Waller.

MR. L. P. D. BROUGHTON having returned from leave, Mr. F. J. Marsden, his *locum tenens*, has resumed his duties as Stipendiary Chief Presidency Magistrate. Mr. Reily has reverted to his former post in the Bengal Legistative Council.

THE Government of India has determined to mass some 1,500 troops forthwith on the Sikkim frontier, and a general order has been issued in the Military Department. The force is to consist of 9-1 Northern Division, Royal Artillery, 4 guns; 2nd Battalion Derbyshire Regiment, 200 men; Head-quarters wing of the 13th Bengal Infantry, 400 men; and the 32nd Pioneer, 700 men. It is particularly laid down that no men are to accompany the force, but those in every way fit for service in a cold climate. The Viceroy's letter to the Dalai Lama has demanded the withdrawal of the Thibetan outpost at the Jalepla Pass by the 15th instant, and intimation has been given to the Rajah of Sikkim that he might see His Excellency at Darjeeling during the latter's stay there. Should the Thibetans persist in the occupation of the Jalepla Pass, the Field-Force now ordered to assemble will be moved across the Sikkim frontier.

AT the first annual meeting of the Madrassa Union Club held on the 25th ultimo, an able and interesting lecture was delivered by Mr. H. Beveridge on Akbar and the Portuguese Mission. After the delivery of the lecture, Mr. Scoble, the Legal Member, addressed the members and made a pointed reference to the backward state of the Mahomedan community. He exhorted them to take full advantage of t he opportunities offered them of obtaining their fair share in the administration of the country. He said :—"I cannot believe that you will fall behind your Hindu fellow-countrymen if you would consent to meet them on common ground. There is no ground, so far as I am aware, for suggesting that Bengali Mahomedans are intellectually inferior to Bengal Hindus. From the presidency of Bombay with which I was long and happily connected, a young Mahomedan gentleman has gone forth to compete with all-comers for the Indian Civil Service and he has come out at the head of the list. There is no reason why you Bengali Mahomedan young men should not emulate the example and achieve the success of Mr. Mohin Budrudin Tyabji." Mr. Scoble then quoted the authority of Sir Syed Ahmed for stating that the Mahomedans have not yet attained to such a position as regards higher English education which is necessary for higher appointments as to put them on a level with Hindus, and then continued :—"I cannot help thinking the Mahomedan community must be somewhat to blame for this. The difficulty was recognised and steps taken to overcome it more than a hundred years ago by the British Government. Have you taken full advantage of the opportunities afforded you?" This question must certainly be answered in the negative. Our Mahomedan fellow-subjects complain that they do not get a fair share of the appointments at the disposal of Government. And yet will not take advantage of the facilities placed within their reach for qualifying themselves for employment in the public service. We trust they will act upon the wise advice given to them by Mr. Scoble.

WHEN the Nizam's magnificent offer to contribute sixty lakhs of rupees towards the cost of strengthening the North-Western frontier of the Empire was made, the *Pioneer*, it may be recollected, was in perfect rapture over it. Our contemporary indignantly scouted the notion that the offer was not a spontaneous one; but he has now found out his mistake. We read the following in the *Pioneer* of the 28th ultimo :—"Had this offer realy originated with the Nizam's Government, the generous acknowledgment with which it was received both in India and England could not have been more worthily bestowed. But it did not originate either with His Highness or with the Minister. Nor was the Minister, Sir Asman Jah, ever consulted with regard to it. The million of money in reserve in England from which the sixty lakhs was to be paid, was a myth." The *Pioneer* has done an important public service by stating the real truth about the so-called spontaneous offer of the Nizam to pay sixty lakhs for the defences of the North-Western Frontier. Now that it is conclusively proved that the offer did not originate either with His Highness or with the responsible Minister, it must not be accepted under any circumstances.

IT IS a hopeful sign of the times that both the *Pioneer* and the *Civil and Military Gazette* have begun to speak the truth about the position of things in the feudatory States. We have noticed the *Pioneer's* remarks on the alleged spotaneity of the Nizam's offer of sixty lakhs for the defences of the North-Western Frontier, "Again," writes our Allahabad contemporary "it is a fact notorious in Hyderabad, and a fact easily verified, that the recent appointment of the brother of Abdul Huq, the Minister for Railways, to the vacant subedarship was not only objectionable to His Highness, but also that his name was not one of the five submitted for approval to the Nizam by the Prime Minister. The public are entitled to know of what nature are these occult influences at work behind the Nizam, by which the patronage of the State is being diverted in this way from its natural trustee. * * * But we believe that a transaction of a much more serious nature lies beneath the recent transfer of all the valuable mining rights in the State of Hyderabad to two English concessionaries. If the surroundings of this affair are at all what we believe them to be, it will clearly be necessary for the Government of India to step in and protect the interests of the State. The well-being of nearly ten millions of people is of va tly greater consequence than the comfort and advancement, the stars and the stripes, of a few individual officials. The officials are there for the millions, and not the millions for the officials. Yet this self-evident relation of the Governors to the governed has too often been ignored in the past history of Hyderabad." The simple truth is, that all real authority in the State has passed away from the hands of the young Nizam and his Minister, who are now mere puppets. The Residency is now all-powerful in Hyderabad and it manages every thing in concert with Abdul Huq and the Nizam's English Private Secretary and Adviser. His Highness is so much disgusted with the position of a pensioner in his own State to which he has been reduced that for some months past he has almost constantly been in seclusion.

IN Kashmir also the Maharaja and his two brothers are, as matters now stand, mere nonentities. The *Civil and Military Gazette* says : "H. H. the Maharaja, as well as his two brothers, appear to have become altogether adverse to the policy pursued by the Minister, Dewan Luchman Das, who would have been dismissed probably before this but for the Maharaja's fear of opposition from Mr. Plowden. Affairs have, however, to judge from all accounts, reached a crisis in which that opposition could hardly be exercised with any decency nor, if exercised, carry much weight. An empty treasury with clamorous creditors; H. H. the Maharaja's own allowances obtained with difficulty; little business except in the way of scandals, being done; and everybody waiting for the smash—such is the position of Jummu to-day. Dewan Luchman Das * * * has proved himself feeble to grasp and incompetent to fulfil the duties expected from him. * * * Luchman Das, however, will soon be numbered among the administrators who 'have been' in Kashmir, and to another will have to be entrusted the task of undoing the harm he has done." It must not be forgotten that Luchman Das was imposed upon the Maharaja by the Resident, Mr. Plowden, against His Highness's wishes and he still retains his office through the support of the Residency. It is a fortunate circumstance that the Viceroy will be going to Kashmir early next month. His Excellency will thus have an opportunity to see with his own eyes the real state of things existing in the Happy Valley. We earnestly hope Lord Dufferin will, on the occasion of his visit to Kashmir, take particular care to enquire how Dewan Luchman Das has exercised his powers during the eighteen months he has been in office. If his Lordship should allow himself to be guided by Residency influences, it is far better that no enquiry should be made.

AN interesting correspondence has recently passed between M. Waddington, the French Ambassader in London, and the Anti-Slavery Society respecting the proposal made by the French Government for the re-opening of the coolie labour traffic between India and Reunion. It will be remembered that the Society in November last addresed theForeign Office protesting against the proposed renewal of Indian immigration into Reunion. M. Waddington forwarded to the Society certain papers relating to the subject and expressed a hope that the perusal of those papers would induce the Society to withdraw opposition to the importation of Indian coolies into Reunion. The Secretary to the Anti-Slavery Society has returned an excellent reply to the French Ambassador. The Secretary points out that even in British Colonies where slavery had once existed it was found that the proper protection of free immigrants was almost a matter of impossibility. The oppression inflicted on Indian coolies was so great that the Government of India was in some cases obliged to stop any further exportation of coolie labour to British colonies. The re-introduction of this labour into British possessions has only been allowed after the enforced establishment of a rigorous system of inspection by officers appointed by the Government. With this painful experience before it the Anti-Slavery Society cannot of course approve of the renewal of Indian immigration into Reunion unless the guarantees asked for by the Government of India for the fair treatment of coolies are given.

THE residents of Harinavi in the Rajpur Municipality have submitted a memorial to the Bengal Government on a matter of great importance to them. The memorialists state that their village is represented on the Municipal Board by two elected and one nominated Commissioner; and and that both the Commissioners chosen at the recent general election are the creatures of Babu Nobin Chand Ghose, whose influence in the village is supreme. This being the case, the memorialists pray that either Babu Chiranjib Mookerjee or some other independent gentleman be nominated by Government to represent the ryots and the poorer classes of the people generally. The prayer is perfectly just and reasonable, and we do not see any reason why it should not be granted. We earnestly hope the memorial will receive favourable consideration at the hands f the Bengal Government.

Correspondence.

THE GOVERNMENT APPEALS TO THE COUNTRY.

TO THE EDITOR, HINDOO PATRIOT.

SIR,—IT is one of the happiest features of modern Governments that be they as despotic in form as were ever the ancient aristocracies there come times when they are willing to take the people into their confidence and to give opportunity for the tender of valuable advice and assistance. Such a time has now come in the history of India, and it behoves the leaders of the people not to let the occasion pass unused or be wasted either in profitless bargainings or vague attacks.

The Government speaking by the mouth of the Finance Minister, Mr. Westland, has recently informed the Legislative Council of India that while it sees its way to no further sources of taxation, and while its borrowing power is, therefore, strictly graded by what it can save, expenditure cannot safely be reduced. Moreover, two of the sources of revenue, the opium-tax and the net railway profits are showing signs of weakness from causes beyond the control of the administration. The railway-receipts during the current year promise no net profits whatever for the assistance of taxation, although Government works strictly on the principle of private enterprise in taking all the revenue from passengers and goods offering that can legitimately be got for the State railways. Notwithstanding this the railway net revenue account exhibits a surplus only sufficient to cover the interest on the capital of the railways, and charges for annuities for its redemption. The reason given for this unprofitableness is that the production of wheat in other countries, Australia, Russia and America, and its low price in the market, together, restrict the sale of Indian wheat, on the carriage of which the Indian Railways are largely dependent for their revenues.

Again, opium is being manufactured in China, and the drug is being taxed there to an extent that is re-acting on the cultivation of the poppy in India. It may be added that while no one likes the opium receipts as a source of Imperial revenue, a strong party exists that is pledged to destroy the monopoly altogether. At the same time certain heads of expenditure threaten to disorder the estimates. Chief among them are the carrying out of plans and works for the defence of the Empire, and the loss in sterling exchange. Without for the present touching statistics it is enough to say that the statement of the Government here referred to is manifestly correct. And the inability of Government to find remedies for what it deplores, no less marked. And it may be added that in the accounts of the Empire as completed by this financial statement laid before the Council no means of providing a surplus revenue for the covering of a war loan are apparent. Yet it is confessedly unsafe to rely on continued peace with Russia, and the fact was no doubt present in the mind of every Councillor on the 27th of

January last, when Government deemed this plain statement of its affairs a proper matter for their consideration.

Before going further it will be well to produce here two only of Mr. Westland's powerful paragraphs. Nothing that can be said about them can add anything to their importance. I take them from the report of Mr. Westland's statement in the *Englishman* of Saturday, the 28th January, and of his speech a week later in the same journal. Mr. Westland speaks as follows regarding the necessity for recent increases of expenditure.

"Of course we might have refused even this amount of increase. We might have refused to open new courts of justice where the increase of the population or of business demanded it. We might have refused to increase police expenditure, which is still in the opinion of many authorities at a dangerously low figure, and run the risk of breeding insecurity to life and to property. We might have stopped the increase of schools and of hospitals and of roads. We might have shut our eyes to events in Central Asia and refused the increases of political and military expenditure forced upon us by the approach of a great civilized power on our North-Western frontier. In short we might have refused to discharge the duties and the responsibilities of a civilized Government either with respect to our own subjects, or to the nations that lie beyond our frontier."

And then a few lines further as :

"We who are engaged in the control of expenditure in India are so impressed with the hugeness of the demand for expenditure which is of itself of a useful and beneficial character, that we are the last people to willingly consent to divert to purposes of extravagance, any money that can be made available to meet that more pressing demand. There is hardly any limit to the amount of money that can be usefully spent in India, and the business of the financial authorities both Provincial and Imperial consists far too often in refusing money for objects of which the desirability cannot be denied, simply because it cannot be found out of revenue, or by economies in expenditure."

If inclined to italicize any part of Mr. Westland's speech, I should underline the last paragraph above commencing with the words "there is hardly any limit." But Mr. Westland's sentences italicize themselves.

Lastly on the 3rd February Mr. Westland spoke as follows on the same subject :

"So long as our financial position is dependent upon the maintenance of a Salt-duty of Rs. 2-8, we must regard ourselves in the management of our expenditure as still under the same obligations which a deficit would impose upon us We must * * * * * strive to bring more near to us the date when it will be possible to examine our revenues for purposes of remission."

That is plain speaking, and when it is remembered that the country is not now in any extraordinary financial embarassment, and that the difficulties and disorders enumerated so carefully by the Finance Minister are normal and do not include the provision of a surplus for the prosecution of a war, though that war is foreseen by most to be inevitable and its preliminary arrangements, increased armies, roads, railways and frontier defences pleaded in extenuation of ordinary outlay, when in fact the best that can be made of an ordinary situation is so bad in the estimation of Government as to warrant such plain speaking, it may be conceived that no ordinary crisis is in the immediate future. Now matters are normal, but how long they will remain so is another question.

The question which is then placed by Government before the people amounts to this. All the present expenditure, and more, much more in the event of a war with Russia is necessary ; taxation is heavy, though not perhaps yet to an extent to be unbearable : the revenues are inelastic : exchange is falling every year and no one can guage its lowest depth : while receipts from the internal railway carrying trade are stationary, through traffic to the seaports is threatened by external competition : so also is the cultivation of the valuable crops of wheat and poppy on which the finances and prosperity of the Empire largely depend : with increasing expenditure and falling revenues how is financial equilibrium to be maintained, the security of the Empire to be assured, and Government carried on ?

Can expenditure be reduced, or can the power of the people to bear increased taxation be improved, or both ? That is the question before the country, put no doubt after long and anxious consideration of the Government's own means of solution ; and not before the discovery was made that in present circumstances, and without radical change and reform, no satisfactory answer could be given.

Writers in the native press have frequently complained of the want of confidence reposed in the people by the Government of India. There is no further shadow of cause for that complaint. Nothing could be fuller or more business-like than this confession of the Finance Minister to the Legislative Council. No one reading Mr. Westland's carefully poised sentences can escape the conclusion that Government according to its powers has done its best for financial stability, for the security and honour of the Empire ; but without new measures cannot do enough to arrest the uncontrollable forces making for financial disorder and national insecurity.

(*To be continued.*)

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL—PRE-EMINENTLY THE COD LIVER OIL FOR USE IN INDIA, AND IN WARM CLIMATES—Joseph J. Pope, Esq., late Staff-Surgeon, Army, Professor of Hygiene, Birkbeck Institution, London, writes :—" I found during my Indian experience that the worth and character of Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil remained unchanged by tropical heat or foreign climate, and it was, from its uniformity of character, particularly adapted for long-continued administration. Further, I have noticed the important fact, that Dr. de Jongh's Cod Liver Oil, besides containing all the active constituents of the remedy, is easily assimilated, without the stomach derangement so frequently following the use of the ordinary Oils. The value of 'hydro-carbons in all debilitated states of the system is now becoming thoroughly recognized ; and it is, without doubt, from the animal oils and fats, rather than from their vegetable substitutes, that we may hope to derive the surest benefit. The Oil of Dr. de Jongh's places in every one's reach a reliable and valuable remedy, one that cannot be too widely recognized.' Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the lable under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and store keepers. Sole Consignees Ansar, Harford and Co., 210, High Holborn, London.

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette,— *February* 29, 1888.

GENERAL,—Babu Mohesh Chunder Sen, Deputy Collector, is empowered to receive and dispose of applications made under section 118 of the Bengal Tenancy Act in the District of Monghyr.

Mr S J Douglas, C S, reported his departure from India, on furlough, on the 3rd instant.

Babu Chundy Churn Bose, Deputy Collector, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector under section 4 of Act VII (B C) of 1880 in the District of Bogra.

Mr W H D'Oyly, C S, has been granted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of furlough for three days.

Surgeon-Major Elwin Sanders is appointed to be Honorary Surgeon of the Central Bengal Light Horse, *vice* Brigade Surgeon S M Shircore, resigned, with effect from the 9th April 1887.

Babu Juggut Chunder Shome, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is allowed leave for three months, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Dwarka Nath Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Kandi, Murshidabad, is transferred to Jessore, and is posted to the sudder station of that District.

Mr. H Cox, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Ranigange, Burdwan, is vested with the powers of a Collector, under Act X of 1870 in that Sub-Division.

Babu Satya Taran Mukerji, Sub-Deputy Collector, Giridhi, Hazaribaugh, is allowed leave for one month, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Behary Lal Ghoshal, Canungoe, Uluberiah, Howrah, is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the fourth grade, and is posted to Giridhi, in the District of Hazaribaugh, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Satya Taran Mukerji, or until further orders.

Moulvi Shaik Addullah, Sub-Deputy Collector, Sewan, Sarun, is allowed leave for three months, under section 72 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Komul Chunder Dutt, Canungoe, Pubna, is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the fourth grade, and is posted to Sewan, in the District of Sarun, during the absence, on leave, of Moulvi Shaik Abdullah, or until further orders.

Mr C T Metcalfe, C S I, Commissioner of the Orissa Division and Superintendent of the Tributary Mehals, Cuttack, is allowed furlough for eighteen months, under section 50 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 22nd March 1888.

Mr C F Worsley, Magistrate and Collector, Chumparun, is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Orissa Division and Superintendent of the Tributary Mehals, Cuttack, during the absence, on furlough, of Mr. T C Metcalfe, C S I, or until further orders.

Mr E R Henry, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Cuttack, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Chumparun, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr C F Worsley, or until further orders.

Mr A C Tute, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Balasore, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Cuttack, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr G M Currie, or until further orders.

This cancels the order of the 30th ultimo, appointing Mr. Tute to act as Magistrate and Collector of Bogra.

Mr Surya Kumar Agasti, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, on leave, is posted temporarily to the sudder station of the Midnapore District.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.—Babu Indra Narain Roy, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the District of Midnapore, to be ordinarily stationed at Gurbetta, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Ananda Kumar Surbadhikari, or until further orders.

Babu Gopal Chunder Mukerji, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Burdwan, is vested with the power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Babu Ramapati De, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the District of Tipperah, to be ordinarily stationed at Gowripara, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Hari Nath Roy, or until further orders.

Babu Kishori Mohun Sikdar, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the District of Mymensingh to be ordinarily stationed at Iswargunge, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Chunder Nath Ghose, or until further orders.

Babu Krishna Mohun Mukerji, Subordinate Judge of Khulna, is allowed leave for two months, Leave Code, and one month and twenty three days under rule 1 of the same section of the Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Babu Shambhu Chunder Nag, Munsiff of Suri, Birbhum, is appointed a act as Subordinate Judge of Khulna, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Krishna Mohun Mukerji, or until further orders.

Babu Norendro Krishna Dutt, B. L, is appointed to act as a Munsiff in the District of Midnapore, to be ordinarily stationed at Nemal, during the absence on leave, of Babu Lal Singh, or until further orders.

Advertisements.

DR. STEPHENS, Dentist and MRS. STEPHENS Zenana Dentist will stop 1 week more in Calcutta at Bellevue Hotel. Fall set of teeth Rs. 100.

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Calcutta, Jan. 1888.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—BENGAL.
IRRIGATION.

NOTICE OF CANAL CLOSURE.

Sone Canals.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Eastern Main Series of Canals will be closed from the 14th of April to the 26th of May 1888, and the Western Main Series from the 1st to the 12 of June 1888.

The Arrah Canal below Dunwar will be closed from the 2nd May 1888 to the 12th June 1888.

A. D. MCARTHUR, *Major*, R. E.,
Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,
P. W. Dept.

Calcutta, the 28th February 1888. 225.

NOTICE.

Her Excellency the Countess of Dufferin will receive on Monday afternoon, March 19th, in the Gardens of Government House from 4-30 to 6-30 P.M.

All Ladies and Gentlemen having the entree of Government House are invited to attend, and those having children to bring them.

WILLIAM BERESFORD, LT. COL.
Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

Military Secretary's Office,
Calcutta 2nd March 1888.

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NOTICE.

The Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium, Darjeeling, will be kept open from April 1st. to November 15th, 1888, for the accommodation of all classes of Indian gentlemen except Eurasians. For further particulars please see the Indian Mirror.

HARI MOHAN CHANDRA,
Secretary, Managing Committee.
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শ্রীমাধব চন্দ্র দত্ত

৭০ নং দুর্গাচরণ মিত্রের ষ্ট্রীট দরজিপাড়া, কলিকাতা।

Calcutta 26th February 1885

Having had the misfortune to suffer from diabetes for a period of four years I had recourse to all the known remedie swithout any benefit. I had at last sought the aid of Baboo Madhub Chunder Dutta of Durzeeparah who has completely cured me by his reputed medicine the "SONAJARA" My urine has acquired normal quantity and quality, no trace of suger is now to be found. I can therefore fully bear testimony to the efficacy of his sovereign remedy.

BENOY KRISHNA DUTTA L.M.S.

Calcuttr 15th May 1885.

I do hereby certify that the Sona Jarah which Babu Madhub Chander Dutta prepares according to the instruction of a Devotee possesses better properties than those of so Aurvedic, and Homoepathic Orum.

I have seen cases of incipient Phithises cured by it. It cures every sort of fever, it cures diabetes, Dysentry and Uterine deseases and ultimetly it mends the monthly courses and thereby it materialy assists in prolucing conception, and besides it cures the bad effects of mercury and of Syphilis. One who has read the Barnets, gold as a remedy on diseases will be fully convinced of its efficacy as an almost Universal Medicine in all the diseases to which the hunan frame is subject. It cures impotency and increases longevity, it is a slow but sure and healthy stimulant to the Viso Mortor nerves and therefore it gives vigour and vitality to every organ of the body. These facts can be proved by the innumerable cases which Babu Madhub Chunder Dutta and his ancestors had treated during the last 80 years.

RAI BAM NARAIN DASS BAHADUR.

Late professor Surgery V. Class of the Calcutta, Medical College and Sealdah Medical School &c. &c.

I do hereby certify that Babu Madhub Chunder Dutta has completely cured my eldest son from Phithisis with Hectic fever within a short time when all other treatments failed.

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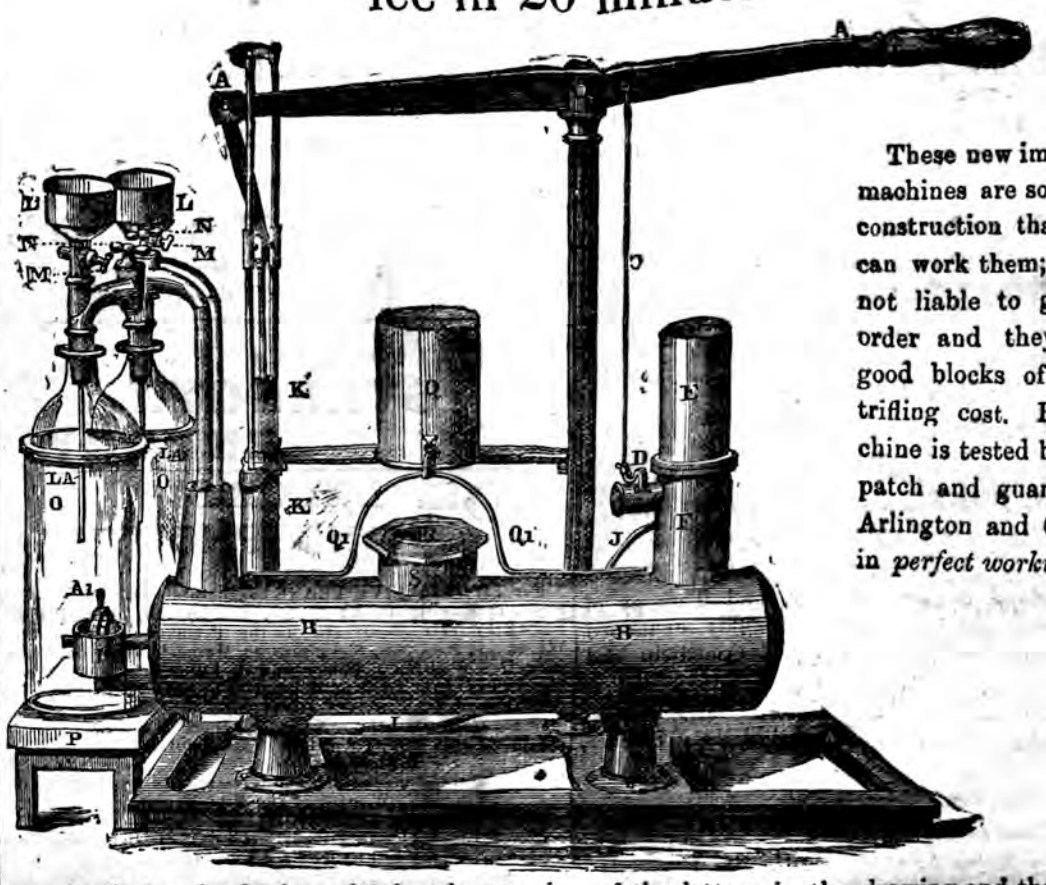

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